

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01455 031741Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
/074 W

-----105999 041220Z /21

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5942
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 1455

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

1-PANAMA CITY.-REACTION TO THE SENATE TREATY DEBATES BEGAN TO CHANGE FROM TOLERANCE TO PIQUE WITH THE LEAD EDIT IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED AFTERNOON DAILY LA REPUBLICA MARCH 2 ENTITLED "INCONVEIVABLE ABUSE." ACCORDING TO LA REPUBLICA, "ONE CAN ACCEPT THAT WITHIN THE U.S. POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT EACH CITIZEN...CAN EMIT HIS OPINIONS IN FAVOR OR AGAINST EACH ISSUE OR PROBLEM THAT AFFECTS THAT NATION...BUT RIGHT NOW WE ARE OBSERVING IN THAT POWERFUL NATION, THAT CALLS ITSELF THE LEADER OF DEMOCRACY, A SHOW THAT WILL BE CHARACTERIZED IN THE ANNALS OF HISTORY AS ONE ONE OF THE GLOOMIEST EPISODES IN THE EVENTS OF THAT NATION."

2-LA REPUBLICA CONTINUES: "THE SENATORS OF THE U.S. CAN SUPPORT OR NOT THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES, BUT THE DISCUSSION OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TREATIES SHOULD NOT BE A PRETEXT FOR THE OPPOSITION TO CONVERT THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE INTO A TRIBUNAL OF DIATRIBES AGAINST PANAMA, IS PEOPLE AND ITS GOVERNMENT LEADERS...ACCORDING TO THOSE INQUISITORS, PANAMA'S MORALS IN SOME FORM SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO THE TEXT OF THE TREATIES. THE OFFENSES ARE A DAILY THING. THE WOUNDING INSINUATIONS, THE PROPOSED CHANGES, THE WORDS THAT ARE HEARD, ALL THIS IS COMBINED IN ORDER TO HUMIL-

LIATE THE PANAMANIAN OR TO PROVOKE THE DESPERATION OF A PEOPLE WHO FRANKLY CANNOT STAND FOR ANY MORE...THE ABUSE IS INCONCEIVABLE. THEY WILL SOON HAVE TO BE TOLD: THAT'S ENOUGH**"

3-TWO LEFTIST GROUPS, A LABOR FEDERATION AND A STUDENT GROUP, ISSUED PROTEST COMMUNIQUE IN THE MARCH 3, 1978 MATUTINO. THE LABOR GROUP, THE NATIONAL CENTER OF PANAMANIAN WORKERS (CNTP), CALLED FOR A WEEK OF PROTEST FROM MARCH 13-19 WHICH WOULD CULMINATE IN PICKETING THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND "EVERY OFFICE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OR ITS AGENCIES LOCATED ANYWHERE IN PANAMA."

4-THE STUDENT GROUP, EXTREME LEFTIST "CAMILO TORRES CIRCLE," DID NOT CALL FOR SPECIFIC ACTION, HOWEVER IT SPURNED THE DEBATES FOR THEIR "EXTREME SUPERFICIALITY, THE ABSOLUTE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THE CANAL MEANS TO THE LIFE OF PANAMA AND THE IMPERIALIST ARROGANCE DEMONSTRATED BY THE TWO BLOCKS PLAYING YANKEE POLITICS WITHOUT FULLY REALIZING THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IS THAT OF THE DESTINY OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE." ITEM GONZALEZ

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